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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nancy Carol Willis

Statewide advance release of new children's book

On August 16, Delaware children can "cool off" with a new picture book, *The Animals' Winter Sleep*, two weeks before it's released to the rest of the nation. Authored by nationally-acclaimed children's writer, Lynda Graham-Barber, and illustrated by award-winning Delaware artist, Nancy Carol Willis, *The Animals' Winter Sleep* captures the wonder of animal winter survival for very young children.

Rich, melodic text paired with charming colored pencil drawings give children a peek inside the dens, nests, burrows and lodges of 13 different animal species. They can then locate all of the animal homes in one final panoramic illustration. An educational section depicts animal tracks in snow and asks questions designed to encourage children to look for details in the pictures.

The Animals' Winter Sleep is the 11th book by Vermont author Lynda Graham-Barber. Her children's title, *Say Boo!*, sold over 100,000 copies in English and French. She has been invited to speak at the 3rd Annual Delaware Book Festival on November 1.

This is the 7th book for Middletown illustrator and author, Nancy Carol Willis. Her previous titles, including *Red Knot: A Shorebird's Incredible Journey*, *Raccoon Moon*, and *The Robins In Your Backyard*, have received national awards and recognition.

Willis will kick off the preview release of *The Animals' Winter Sleep* with a book signing at The Gibby Art Center in Middletown on Friday, August 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 and during the Middletown Peach Festival on Saturday, August 16 from 10 to 4.

For further information on where to purchase advance copies of *The Animals' Winter Sleep* in your area, contact Birdsong Books at 302-378-7274.

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